

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, and 17 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,806,898 to Toyama ("Toyama") and U.S. Patent No. 6,707,933 to Mariani ("Mariani"), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0159627 to Schneiderman ("Schneiderman") further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0064685 to Kim ("Kim"). The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-23 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-23 are allowable over any combination of Toyama, Mariani, Schneiderman, and Kim for at least the following reasons.

First, in Response to Amendment and Arguments on page 2 of the Office Action, it is maintained that Kim in Figs. 4-5 and paragraphs [0012], [0017], and [0021] teaches the "concept of the camera and the display of the handheld video phone system are integrated in a single unit". Kim in paragraphs [0012] and [0017] do reference a touch screen and the phone LCD. Kim in paragraph [0021] references a digital camera illustrated in FIG. 3. However, it is respectfully submitted that Kim is clear in its FIG. 2 and paragraph [0035],

that its camera's (emphasis added) "lens 103 is disposed within the lens housing 102a to be exposed in a longitudinal direction of the first housing 10."

A close inspection of Kim does not reveal that either the touch screen or the phone LCD are usable to display video of a participant's face or that the digital camera is capable of taking videos of the participant. Additionally, the microphone 116 (see, Kim, FIGs. 4 and 5) is positioned on an end of the housing opposite the camera and is, thus, incapable of being used for communications between participants especially when the camera is trained on the participant's face and the microphone is blocked by a raised panel on which the touch screen and the phone LCD are positioned (see, Kim, FIGs. 4 and 5). Thus, Kim fails to reveal a handheld video phone system capable of filming a participant while enabling viewing a display of another participant required "during a video phone communication between a plurality of participants using handheld video phone systems" as recited in claim 1.

Further, while Toyama describes at col. 3, line 67 to col. 4, line 3 that its "invention may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network", these remote processing devices are described as the remote computer 150 (see, Toyama, col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 6 and FIG. 1).

The independent claims are amended to clarify that images of a user's face can be processed on that user's or on other remote users' handheld video phone systems or on a server connected to the same network.

It is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Toyama, Mariani, Schneiderman, and Kim. For example, no combination of Toyama, Mariani, Schneiderman and Kim teaches, discloses or suggests, amongst other patentable elements, (illustrative emphasis added) "an image processor selected from one of the first and at least one other handheld video phone systems and a server connected in on the network" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 9 and 17.

Similarly, Mariani, Schneiderman, and Kim do not remedy the deficiency of Toyama wherein its teaching is implemented on a video phone for "communication between a plurality of participants using handheld video phone systems", as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 9 and 17.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are patentable over Toyama, Mariani, Schneiderman, and Kim and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19, and 21-23 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 9 and 17 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

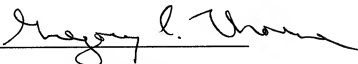
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9 and 17 are allowable, and allowance is thereof respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully

submitted that claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, 18-19 and 21-23 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from the independent claims.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position, or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 1, 2010

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